Basum language

Basum (autonym: *brag gsum* 'three cliffs'; **Basong** 巴松话; **Bake**[3]) is a divergent Bodish language spoken by about 2,500 people in Gongbo'gyamda County 工布江达县, Nyingtri Prefecture, Tibet, China. Basum is spoken by 13.5% of the population of Gongbo'gyamda County. Glottolog lists Basum as unclassified within Bodish.

Basum is spoken in Cuogao Township 错高乡 and Xueka Township 雪卡乡 of Gongbo'gyamda County 工布江达县, Nyingtri Prefecture, Tibet, China (Qu, et al. 1989).

Basum	
Region	Tibet, China
Native speakers	(2,500 cited 1989)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan ▪ Bodish ▪ (unclassified) ▪ **Basum**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (mis)
Glottolog	basu1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/basu1243)[2]

Classification

Basum Lake (*Basum Tso*) in Tibet

Qu, et al. (1989) notes that Basum is mutually unintelligible with and quite different from Gongbu Tibetan (Chinese: 工布话; 11,600 speakers), which is a Central Tibetan language variety closely related to Nyingchi Tibetan (Chinese: 林芝话). Basum is also unintelligible with Niangpu 娘蒲话 (also called Muqu 牧区话), which is a Khams Tibetan language variety spoken by 4,310 people in Jiaxing 加兴 and Niangpu 娘蒲 townships of Gongbo'gyamda County. Qu, et al. (1989:61) notices some lexical similarities between Basum and Cuona Menba (Tawang Monpa), an East Bodish language.

Suzuki & Nyima (2016)[4] consider Basum to be a non-Tibetic language.

Tournadre (2014)[3] classifies Basum (Bake) as an unclassified Bodish language that does not belong to the Tibetic branch. Tournadre (2014: 112) notes that Basum has the negator *a-*, as opposed to the negator *ma-* or *myi-* in Tibetic languages. Also, unlike Tibetic languages, Basum does not palatalize Proto-Bodish *ti- and *si-.

Lexicon

Qu, et al. (1989: 50-51) list the following Basum words with no cognates in neighboring Tibetic languages.

Chinese gloss	English gloss	Basum
脚	foot, leg	ciˎ
酥油	yak butter	ja˥
盐	salt	npoˏ
一	one	tɯʔˏ
七	seven	nʱi˥
走	to walk	nõˏ
看	to look	ɕẽˏ
睡	to sleep	cãˎ
坐	to sit	nʱũ̃˥
我	I (1.SG)	hiˏ
你	you (2.SG)	ntoˌ
他	he (3.SG)	poˏ
那	that	ũˏ
多	many	pi˥
红	red	nteˌnteˏ
吝啬	stingy	phe˥muˏ
一点儿	a little, a bit	ɐ˥mi˥
立即	soon, quickly	aˌluˏ
全部	all	ntaˌleˎ
根本	basically	ɐˌnɐʔˏ
一定	definitely, must	sũ̃ˌpaˏ

Other divergent Basum words are (Suzuki & Nyima 2016):[4]

Gloss	Basum
one	tɨʔ
four	bər
five	ŋo
seven	ni
you (sg)	do
blood	køʔ
meat	anʱi
iron	l̥ɐʔ
pig	pɐʔ

References

1. Qu et al. 1989
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Basum" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/basu1243). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Tournadre, Nicolas. 2014. "The Tibetic languages and their classification." In *Trans-Himalayan linguistics, historical and descriptive linguistics of the Himalayan area*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
4. Suzuki, Hiroyuki and Tashi Nyima. 2016. *'Bo skad, a newly recognised non-Tibetic variety spoken in mDzo sgang, TAR: a brief introduction to its sociolinguistic situation, sounds, and vocabulary (http://blogs.uw.edu/stls2016/files/2016/09/27-Suzuki-Nyima-STLS-2016-handout.pdf)*. Fourth Workshop on Sino-Tibetan Languages of Southwest China (STLS-2016). University of Washington, Seattle, September 8–10, 2016.

- Qu, Aitang and Gong, Que and Yi, Xi and Jie, Ang 瞿霭堂; 共确; 益西; 结昂. 1989. Wèi cáng fāngyán de xīn tǔǔ: Bāsōng huà 卫藏方言的新土语——记最近发现的巴松话 (http://wuxizazhi.cnki.net/Search/MZYW198903007.html). Minzu Yuwen 3. 39-61.

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